

Appl. No.: 09/509,400

Amendment Dated: November 30, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of the Claims:**

1. **(Canceled)**
2. **(Previously Presented)** The composition according to claim 23, wherein the aluminium compound (A) is contained in the composition in at least 50% by weight, relative in each case to the sum of the components (A) and (B).
3. **(Previously Presented)** The composition according to any one of claims 23 or 2, wherein the aluminium compound is aluminium tris(methyl-aceto acetate) and/or aluminium tris(ethyl-aceto acetate).
4. **(Previously Presented)** The composition according to any one of claims 23 or 2, wherein X may be different for each n and stands for a substituted or unsubstituted saturated C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>6</sub> hydrocarbon.
5. **(Previously Presented)** The composition according to claim 4, wherein the glycol ether compound is dipropylene glycol-mono-n-butyl ether and/or diethylene glycol-mono-n-butyl ether.
6. **(Previously Presented)** The composition according to any one of claims 23 or 2, wherein the composition additionally contains polyester or poly-acrylic acid ester compounds.
7. **(Previously Presented)** The composition according to any one of claims 23 or 2, wherein the compound additionally contains colour-giving additives selected from the group consisting of

carbon black, inorganic pigments, organic pigments, soluble organic dyes and mixtures thereof.

8-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 4, wherein said substituted or unsubstituted saturated hydrocarbon contains 2 to 4 carbon atoms.

16. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 4, wherein n is from 2 to 4.

17. (Previously Presented) The composition according to any one of claims 23 or 2, wherein aluminium compound (A) is contained in the composition in at least 75% by weight.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for the manufacture of a mixture comprising a glycol ether compound and an aluminium compound with at least one ligand per aluminium atom having the following structure:



wherein R is a C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>12</sub> hydrocarbon residue, which may comprise 1 to 4 ether linkages and/or one hydroxy group, R' and R'', independent of one another, stand for H and/or one C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>4</sub> hydrocarbon residue comprising reacting a C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>12</sub> aluminium alcoholate with a 3-oxo-carbonic acid ester compound at a temperature of above 140°C in the presence of a glycol ether compound.

19. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 18, wherein the temperature is above 160°C.

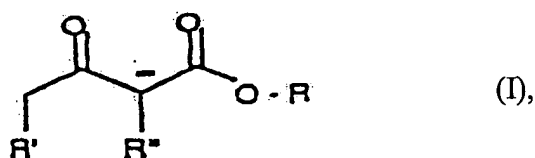
20. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 18 wherein the temperature is above 140 °C for 1 to 10 hours during or after conversion.

21. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 20 wherein the temperature is above 140°C for 4 to 8 hours.

22. **(Currently Amended)** ~~An aluminum compound~~ A mixture produced by any one of claims 18-21.

23. **(Previously Presented)** A composition comprising:

(A) one or more aluminium compounds with three ligands per aluminium atom of the following kind:

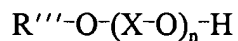


wherein:

R is a C<sub>1</sub>- to C<sub>12</sub>- hydrocarbon residue, which may comprise 1 to 4 ether linkages and/or one hydroxy group, and

R' and R'', independent of one another, are selected from the group consisting of H, one C<sub>1</sub>- to C<sub>4</sub>- hydrocarbon residue and mixtures thereof, and

(B) at least one glycol ether compound of the following structure:



wherein:

$R'''$  is a  $C_1$ - to  $C_{18}$ - hydrocarbon residue,

$n$  is an integer of 1 to 10, and

$X$  is a saturated substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1$ - to  $C_6$ - hydrocarbon, which may be linked at any carbon atom and may be different for each  $n$ , and

the glycol ether compound (B) is contained in the composition in at least 5% by weight, relative to the sum of the components (A) and (B) in the composition.

24. **(Previously Presented)** A composition comprising:

(A) one or more aluminum compounds with three ligands per aluminum atom of the following kind:

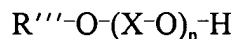


wherein:

$R$  is a  $C_1$ - to  $C_{12}$ - hydrocarbon residue, which may comprise 1 to 4 ether linkages and/or one hydroxy group, and

$R'$  and  $R''$ , independent of one another, are selected from the group consisting of H, one  $C_1$ - to  $C_4$ - hydrocarbon residue and mixtures thereof, and

(B) at least one glycol ether compound of the following structure:



wherein:

$R'''$  is a  $C_1$ - to  $C_{18}$ - hydrocarbon residue,

$n$  is an integer of 2 to 8, and

$X$  is a saturated substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1$ - to  $C_6$ - hydrocarbon, which may be linked at any carbon atom and may be different for each  $n$ , and

the glycol ether compound (B) is contained in the composition in at least 5% by weight, relative to

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the sum of the components (A) and (B) in the composition.

25. **(Previously Presented)** The composition of any one of claims 23 or 24 wherein X contains at least one oxygen linkage.

26. **(Previously Presented)** The composition of claim 25 wherein said oxygen linkage is selected from the group consisting of =O, -OH, -OR''' and mixtures thereof.